

Exhibit A

REMARKS

Applicant amended claims 1 and 102 and added new claims 141-155 to further define Applicant's claimed invention. The amendment to claim 1 is supported at least by the language of claim 35 as originally filed, page 16, line 20 of the specification, and Fig. 5. New claims 141, 142, 145, and 146 are supported at least in Fig. 9. New claim 144 is supported at least in Fig. 5. New claim 147 is supported in the specification at least on page 5, line 1; page 7, lines 5-12; and Fig. 4. New claims 148, 149, 150, and 153-155 are supported by claims 10, 11, 13, 25, 36, and 37, respectively, as originally filed. New claims 151 and 152 are supported in the specification at least on page 6, lines 2-4. New claims 141-155 read on invention I, species 1 as defined by the Restriction Requirement of November 30, 2001. The amendment to the specification is supported at least by the language of claims 7, 36, and 37 as originally filed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings for not showing the features of claims 7, 10, 11-14, 16, 17, 36, and 37. Applicant is submitting concurrently herewith a proposed drawing correction showing the features of claims 7, 36, and 37.

For claim 10, the Examiner is referred to Fig. 9, which shows a curve at leading end 102 that extends from exterior facing side wall 114 at point B past mid-longitudinal axis MLA at point C.

For claims 11-13 and 16, the Examiner is referred to Fig. 10, which shows projections or surface roughenings in the form of ratchetings 220.

For claims 14 and 16, the Examiner is referred to Fig. 5, which shows elements 110 that permit implant 100 to be porous.

The Examiner objected to the amendment to the specification inserting a new